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DECEMBER LESSON SHEET

PART I

DECEMBER, 1919

To Our Friends of the
Stead Center Oriental Class:

Dear Friends:

This is a lesson about your souls--your real selves.

In one sense, the soul of a person (of any living thing) is part of that person. In another sense, the soul is a long way off.

This may seem to be very contradictory, but it is not as much a paradox as it appears.

With God, there is no distance. All things are of God. That is, there can be nothing without God. This is called omnipresence and omnipotence, very often. These are terms that imply God's presence in all that Creation holds.

This being true, no one's soul can be separated from that person. Whatever is of God, is here, without respect to where the place may be. If God is in all things and all things are of God, then the soul of each of us must be where we are.

There is a different viewpoint, and this is the one we wish you to consider as your December lesson.

~~The farther down in Creation's scale one may go, the less one perceives of the greater beauty and truth of Creation.~~ Just as the process of Creation started in the higher vibrations, in order to form something into which the coarser forms could be woven, so does existence in the higher vibrations signify a clearer understanding. This is equivalent to nearness to God.

Nothing is away from God, but there is what we may call a scale.

The lower notes of this scale are those of the coarser, or material, forms of existence. Each stage upward in the ethereal, produces a clearer, higher note. Another comparison is to start with a morose, brooding disposition that changes, gradually, to a contented disposition, then a hopeful state, then aspiration, then optimism, then knowledge and then exultation. These are comparisons only. We present them not as actual stages of unfoldment.

Your souls are with God. Your souls are unblemished and without doubt or fear. Only because of this truth is it possible for you to live through your disappointments and errors.

Each of you is a reflection of God. We may say that in each of you, God lives. Irrespective of the depth of purpose there is in God's Plan, at all times there is in operation what we may term the magnetic attraction of the Godly principle within you. Always, you are drawn toward your real selves, much as a dreamer nears the waking reality.

Your souls can not be pulled down to the gross, material plane. That is impossible. You must work always toward your souls, or toward the Divine light within each of you.

This is true of everybody. There is no exception. The criminal is farther away from his soul than the honest, upright man is from his. In time, the criminal must find his soul. He must develop to that point of

understanding where he will comprehend his dependence on God. For years he may combat that tugging, that pulling, that urging toward the better and nobler things. But the attraction never ceases. Like the law of gravity, it operates always.

Sometimes you hear persons say that a man has lost his soul, and from that expression has grown a belief on the part of many that the soul can be lost forever. To snuff out the light of the soul is as impossible as putting God out of existence. We did not create God. He created us. We are the dependents, but God is the Father.

This expression, "He has lost his soul", may be stated more clearly, thus: "He has placed between his soul and his present state of being many obstacles. These consist of wrong thoughts and wrong deeds". In time, all that is wrong must cease to satisfy. The soul recognizes only truth. That means right. The person who does wrong, is going against that which he feels. He is trying to do what can not be done. He is attempting to get away from his own soul, which is impossible. No man has life except for his soul. His own sense of being, the very knowledge that he lives, is a feeling due to the existence of the soul.

Your earth travels around your sun. The earth can not escape its orbit. Your life travels around your soul. Some day your life must do what the earth can not do. You must travel toward your soul direct. If the earth could travel toward the sun, the light would become stronger and the heat greater. The earth would traverse millions of miles of space. Your lives travel not according to the measure of distance, but through experience and development.

The more earnestly you strive to think, act and live properly, the closer you are getting to your souls, and the easier it becomes to progress.

The greatest struggle is when your experiences may be said to keep you traveling in an orbit. Then you go through many experiences that you say are new, but they are on the same plane. They bring you no development. They do not take you nearer your souls.

A person says, "God knows I have suffered. I have tried and failed. What has all this suffering brought me?" Perhaps that person never seriously tries to progress, but keeps right on committing the same offenses. All the while, there is the urge of the soul to try to do better. This is the same as a realization that the present state of existence is wrong. No wrong thing can satisfy. No temporary condition of seeming satisfaction can be worth while. There must be continuous progress, meaning throughout eternity.

While progress never ends, as you develop and rise in the scale of the spirit-spheres, you realize more about the real nature of your souls, and you find happiness in each new step of progress.

Dissatisfaction, pain, disappointment are proof that you have not started to find your souls.

You may say, "How can we ever find our souls while we are on the earth-sphere?"

As you develop, as you strive to progress, you store up a reward that will be real to you when you enter spirit. Then you will realize that the efforts you put forth in your earth-world were more important than you realized at the time. You then will realize that your earth-efforts counted a great deal because you were farther from your souls than you will be in any of the higher spirit-spheres. You will find many persons on the first and second spheres of spirit who feel farther removed from their souls than they ever felt on earth, because their remorse is keener.

If you feel that you are not being rewarded sufficiently on earth for your earnest efforts and your severe struggles, do not forget that your

progress in spirit concerns eternity, and that none of your effort is or can be lost.

Precisely as time seems to drag to mortals and seems so short to those in spirit, all earth-effort can count for or against development in a larger measure, because you mortals are more hampered and restricted than we in spirit.

As you approach your souls, the effort to progress becomes easier, and it is possible to find the peace of heaven while you are in the flesh, in proportion as you heed this call of your souls. If you have failed to find this peace, this happiness, the fact that such things are possible remains undisturbed. If this condition on earth were not possible, that would amount to saying that you are insulated from your souls while you are in the flesh. If there were ever a time when you could be out of touch with your souls, this would amount to the absolute death claimed by materialists.

If your souls in fact had localized residence in your bodies, material or spirit, the inspiration, the guidance, the Godly instincts that are yours, would be clouded.

No, this does not mean that your souls are different from you, that they lead independent lives. You have no sense of being that is outside yourselves. We may offer this explanation: Each living thing is in direct contact with its source--with God. At all times, each of you has "an open wire" to God. Your prayers go direct to God. They go via your souls which are of God, and which are with God, and never were separated from Him.

This is a Truth of the most tremendous importance. Ponder it well, and you must realize that God has insured your continued development and progress; that out of every severe experience which you call a set-back, you are extracting some necessary force that must aid your development; that God alone has mastery over you; and that, no matter what changes may come in your experience, in your soul is the insurance of your unbroken individuality. It means that your prayers find God, and that all souls fundamentally are working in harmony with God's Plan, even though at times they seem to be set against one another.

Through your souls come your Godly instincts, your inspiration, your development, and the spirit-world helps carry out God's Will by bringing to you only that help which accords with God's purpose. In other words, we can not assist you more than your own God-given souls permit. Your souls are of God. Our souls are of God. It is this oneness of Creation that works always for itself, and that selfhood is of God alone.

The mortal who argues by saying, "If I were God", is a poor, weak child who believes that it can succeed better away from the care its parents bestow upon it. Those parents may reprimand the child to save it from its own error. Through experience, God shows us where we were wrong, and the soul retains the knowledge of what occurs and why. In time all of that faithfully stored knowledge must come to us as our own. It has been placed in God's storehouse as provision for the day when we shall need that store of knowledge.

The soul alone has possessions. The material-body and the spirit-body are but instruments. Those things which you are pleased to call possessions, are but instruments. You have borrowed them in order that you may learn through their use.

To each of us is given a certain selection. As you progress throughout the ages, and come closer to that Divine Light that gives you life, you will see wherein you erred and why.

Suppose your souls were localized in your bodies like a charge of electricity in a storage battery: For a time you would be cut off from direct contact with God. Your souls belong with God, and reflect your sense of

individuality to you. Search in your bodies all you wish to find the dwelling-place of your souls, and you must admit the effort fruitless. Turn to God and be true to His precepts and His guidance, and in finding God, you are finding your souls.

There are mortals who fear the change called death. Why should they, when their souls, their entities, are with God, always have been, and will be always?

Death means getting just that much nearer oneself. Should we fear approaching our own living realities?

Imagine a dynamo, everlastingly sending out a current of electrical energy. There is a wire proceeding a great distance. One end is in direct contact with the dynamo and the other end is a long ways off. At the end of this power-line, we shall write, "The earth-world." You are at that end of this line. Does it seem reasonable to believe that you will receive more power as you approach that dynamo? Each step of progress you make, in your earth-world or in spirit, takes you nearer to your source of energy and knowledge.

If there were no obstacles, such as ignorance or discontent, or doubt, clouding that current of energy, you could know no sickness or failure, because then you would seek success in the right way and you would be drawing more strongly upon a never-failing source of energy. To the soul, there can be no sickness, worry, failure or death. These deterrents are but evidence that you are living away from that which God has made yours.

We appreciate the fact that it is difficult to so word such Teachings as these as to avoid misinterpretation. The meaning of this Lesson, we have attempted to make clear, but its value will be found only in the expenditure of much thinking on your part.

Do not think of yourselves as only dreamers who some day will awaken. Do not think of your souls as something different from yourselves. Think of the truth that you are of God and that, in reality, you never can get away from your Source, and that a broader understanding of God must come through a better understanding of yourselves.

This great truth which we have placed before you in this Lesson, is not complicated. It is a simple truth. The faculties you know as reason or judgment or will are but expressions of knowledge, and as knowledge becomes clearer, it is self-evident. You know that two plus two makes four.

To know this requires no evidence, no proof, no attempt at logic. It exists. It is so and could not be otherwise. As you learn more about God's Law, you will see it as self-evident. That is knowledge. What mortals call profound thinking is but a search for knowledge. Their faculties of mind are but evidence that somewhere, meaning at some stage of progress, knowledge must exist. This must be true, or mortals never would have these knowledge-fragments that make up earth-wisdom.

All progress is growth, and as truly as there is a never-ending attraction that draws you onward toward your true estate in existence, never fear that your growth will be stunted or will cease.

No soul is away from God. Your present existence seems to imply at times that you are alone and forgotten, but if this could be so, if one of God's souls could lose itself, the light of the suns would fade and Creation would cease, and the Plan would fail. God, the Creator of all things, accounts for all, and the Whole is incomplete without all its parts.

THE TEACHERS

The Wm. T. Stead Memorial Center,
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December Lesson Sheet

PARTS II and III

DECEMBER, 1919

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Dear Fellow Class-Members:

Materialism is receiving many severe shocks these days. Even though you may be called crazy for believing in Spiritualism, that indictment is not proved by the simple utterance of an expression that carries no evidence with it.

Ignorant folk may hold college degrees, but that makes their ignorance less excusable. Ignorant persons condemn all which lies outside their domain of understanding, but that domain is very small and they need not put a "no-trespass" sign on it!

Those who were so certain yesterday, are less certain today, that spirit-return and communication and guidance are not realities. One poor fellow wrote to us that he had decided to have no spirit-guidance, and get along by himself. We did not disturb him, because there was no good to be accomplished. Perhaps his loved ones on the other side look at him pityingly, much as parents would regard a little boy who has decided to desert the parental roof and go West to fight Indians. By the time he has seen the outskirts of the town fading away, he remembers that he should have said good-bye to some of his friends, and so, with that excuse, he returns and decides to stay home one more night!

The guides of the man who decided to get along without them, will help him all they can, but he makes that assistance less possible. If God permits us to come into possession of any knowledge, it is for a purpose. If you have been attracted to Spiritualism and the opportunity to learn much about it has been yours, you are not serving the opportunity God gave to you if you turn your back on that which you know is true, but which may not always compliment you. That is the trouble with mortals: They wish to be complimented. God loves them and hates their enemies. Tell them that they are wrong and they fly into a rage. There is just one way to inform persons of that type that they are wrong. God adopts that way and calls it experience.

There is much sobering influence in being "sat on" and failing, and seeing one's beautiful dreams dissipated. Then the other fellow doesn't look like such an idiot as he did before, and the one who suffers is not so certain that he is all-wise or all-powerful.

Still, we do unwise things, and may think at times that we are right, because it pleases us to think so.

As we observe, we see that the material things are but instruments for our experience, and that materialistic tendencies may lead to abuses of the material blessings given to us.

Those who have not had the opportunity to learn about the spiritual things, are less to blame for shortcomings than those who have had that opportunity—and it is less wonderful to see the world turning toward the spiritual things than it is to see persons who have had spiritual opportunities, turning from them.

At this period of world-progress, with the great war but a short distance in the past, and the debts of the war very real and pressing, we see other signs—signs that the wisest men do not understand.

There is this labor-unrest, but back of it there is some force that is working, through evolutionary gradations, toward something we do not see. It is not incidental. It is not "just happening." We can not predict what the results will be or when they will come.

We do not know that prohibition will stay. We know only that it has come in a measure that most of us thought impossible.

These changes, these sweeping reversals of thought and habit, may be only the signs of what is to come; perhaps soon, and maybe not for a long while.

We see these changes without understanding them, but paralleling them we also see other changes—the gradual getting away from the material. It is gradual, but it is real.

With millions becoming interested in Immortality, other millions are worshipping the mechanism of sex, and money and gluttony. If we have any ability to read these signs, we might be justified in saying that the grip of the material is trying its last time to hold humanity from seeking the spiritual things. Watching the silly recreations of mankind through sober eyes, is making those trivial things less alluring. They were beautiful when gazed upon through eye glossed over with alcoholic shellac. Discordant music then was melody and a painted face was beautiful.

The world is sobering up, but not all at once. No drunkard becomes sober all at once, as a usual thing.

The change comes gradually. Truth dawns upon us as we grasp each detail of truth. Sober-thinking comes only as we elect to have sober thought gradually take the place of delirious thought. Our habits of life are changed through gradations. So are the habits of the world.

Materialism, as a doctrine, as the most important thing in life, is failing. Some students believe that this is a harbinger of the mellenium. It may be. We do not know. It is a forerunner of something, and as surely as progress is upward, even though

it may be up-hill and down, that certainly is the world moving toward something better.

You may spend hours copying columns of figures, and only minutes in adding them up. Then you say that you have a result. The world may be centuries in making changes, and in drawing together toward a focal point many lines of thought and action. When they meet, we say that the change is sweeping. What we should say is that the result becomes evident.

So, in these days, we may be gathering together many of these thread-ends of world-changes, and are seeing the results. But the results have not come as sweeping changes. They are but orderly objectives toward which these changes have been moving for centuries.

At commencement exercise, college graduates are handed their diplomas, and with the termination of those exercises, they have graduated. Toward that graduation they have been moving ever since they started in the kindergarten.

With growing sensuality in the dance, in the theatre and in styles of dress, we might throw up our hands and say that the world is going to the devil. But perhaps these things are like the headache that is the only remnant of sickness. When that is gone, the cure is complete. While we see and must admit these cheap efforts at sensuality, amounting almost at times to pandering and surely not answerable by the terms of casting off conventionality, we must see also the rapidly maturing tendency toward the spiritual, and these sweeping changes in the plan of government, capital and labor. Somehow, all of these things are related: the turning from and the holding onto the material things.

Materialism has meant one thing: The tendency to give more importance to the material than to the spiritual. This invariably results in misuse of the material, while common sense tells us that the material is to be used properly, and so employed must help us.

Each year, it is less a crime to believe in Spiritualism. It will become popular after awhile, and if that popularity results in a sincere effort to LIVE the meaning, then the wave will not pass, as it has passed before.

Not one of us is monitor for this world or any other world. We should be monitors of ourselves, and in doing our own best to grasp the meaning of the spiritual things, we are assisting in the great upbuilding.

Let us watch these changes that are in progress, and while not passing upon them with a pretended knowledge, we at least can keep in touch with them and perhaps after a time we shall see where they are leading.

Truly, it is a privilege to live on earth in these days!

Owing to Mrs. Cook's New York City visit, the messages will go over to next month.

Following are the group-study subjects for the next four weeks.

Subjects for the first week:

1. Which is better, to find excuses for our shortcomings, or to try to develop from those errors?
2. Can it be wrong to controvert evil laws that man has made in his ignorance?
3. Why can no individual, in any sphere, know as much as God?
4. Express an opinion on the harm of attempting to shift responsibility.

5. If man is a reflection of God, are man's mistakes God's mistakes?

6. What processes of thought may be necessary before any of us can have knowledge on any subject?

7. Why is it necessary for us to use these processes of mind in acquiring knowledge?

8. How does prayer, coupled with honest effort, help us develop mentally?

9. To what degree can care of the physical-body agree with spiritual development, and where does thought of the body become material?

10. If the spiritual quality of love can be perverted into material passion, how can other spiritual qualities be perverted by mortals?

Subjects for the second week:

11. Why must the knowledge of your soul bring you eventually to the higher conditions of existence?

12. If your soul were in your body, localized to the material, what results might follow?

13. If God did not love our souls, why should they be kept with Him?

14. Define "Godly instincts."

15. Why must all persons be children of God?

16. In what respects do other forms of life differ from our lives?

17. Is it possible that our being created as individuals, may infer some special responsibility?

18. If plant-life responds to natural law without thought-processes, but still is life, how does it differ from our human lives?

19. If higher development means greater sensitiveness and that means greater sense of suffering, trace the relationship of suffering to progress.

20. If God is love, how can these terrible things be of God without signifying hatred?

Subjects for the third week:

21. God's capacity to create is limitless. Give an explanation of this.

22. How can God live in all things? This implies a great difference between the life-expressions of an individual and God. See what logic you can set in motion pondering this subject.

23. All creatures are of God. They seem so much different, often at such odds with one another. Why should this be?

24. Through the Fatherhood of God, as explained in this month's Lesson, explain your conception of how the Law of Compensation likely operates.

25. With so much evident inequality, how can it be said that all men are created free and equal?

26. The sense of existence sometimes becomes egotism. How does ignorance make this possible?

27. There must be a point, as we develop toward our souls, when we can sense the relationship of all living creatures. What do you get out of this idea?

28. What is the probable spiritual meaning of the confession or sins, or wrong acts?

29. Do you think that God needs to wait for us to confess before He knows our sins?

30. One may be "carried away" with religious fervor but not develop at all. Explain why this is true.

Subjects for the fourth week:

31. Until a person has grown into knowledge, it is not regarded as knowledge, but a theory. Why is this as it should be?

32. The earth-world contains persons in various stages of development. Considering its conflicts and contradictions, show the relationship between the earth-world and the higher spirit-spheres, where the residents are of like development.

33. Is it probable that there is any other sphere in the universe where there are brought together persons of such varied degrees of development? How could this have a great deal to do with the value of earth-experience?

34. With spiritual development, why is it logical that persons should use material possessions properly?

35. Why can no soul ever die?

36. Considering the nature of the soul, why is no memory ever lost?

37. People talk about their "higher selves." What do they mean, even if they do not understand that meaning?

38. If the soul is always in spirit, why should any one fear death?

39. God lives in all that which lives. Does this not explain why no individual need go through endless experiences? Could eternity be long enough for that?

40. As God's creatures approach a better understanding of God, is this not working out a plan of progression?

* * * *

Even though you may not be a member of a group, contemplating these questions will help you.

This month's Lesson merits your sincerest thought. Read it carefully—many times, and think about it a great deal.

This question has been asked several times, and I believe that the answer will be interesting to all: "Do we have two bodies at one time—a spirit-body and a material-body? Please explain the relationship between these two bodies."

Mortal understanding inclines to be dull, and it is an interpretative understanding. Let us not forget that. When the Teachers try to explain to us conditions of spirit, we interpret what they say into terms of our individual comprehension. As the Frenchman said, "When the Americans say, 'Look out,' they don't mean look out, but don't look out!" Misinterpreting the American meaning, he looked out of a car-window when he should have kept his head inside. And when the Teachers attempt to impart to us a clear understanding of spirit conditions, we sift what they say through the screen of our own mortal intellects, and gain perhaps a wrong impression.

The Teachers often are averse to giving us certain truths, because they know we can not understand them. They are obliged to use our language and appeal to our degree of comprehension, which means that what they tell us is as close as they can come to painting a picture of the fact in our minds.

As nearly as I have been capable of understanding what the Teachers mean, this is what I gather relative to our material-bodies and our spirit-bodies: When a spirit is to be incarnated, that spirit already lives in the spirit-realms. It may never have been born into this world of material experience, and therefore, that person's era of real experience, of genuine progress, may be said to begin with the first earth-birth. This is not the Creation of the spirit, but the starting of that spirit's genuine progress. That connection is made at the moment of conception. It is the impelling force that draws together the cell from the male and the cell from the female, forming the first cell in the growth of the infant-body. But during this gestation period, the spirit is in spirit, and as the body of the child grows, that spirit gives evidence of symptoms similar to the approach of old age. There is senility—forgetfulness, sleep perhaps. The mother feels the little one's movements sometimes months before birth, because there must be life in that little body or it could not grow. But the spirit itself actually enters the body, or completes its entrance, at the moment of birth—even though the birth be premature and death may result instantly. Thus, in the case of babies said to be born dead, there has been a birth for the spirit, and that spirit starts anew in the spirit-world as a very helpless infant. Whether the birth occurs in this way, or the baby lives and grows to maturity, the same process follows so far as the spirit-body is concerned. The old spirit-body dissolves—or, rather, readjusts its ethereal particles around the material-body. These ethereal particles often are referred to as the aura—a light seen by some sensitives. There is an aura given off, also, by the material-body—like a penumbra; the "shadow of a shadow." These ethereal particles impart strength to the material-body, and at times seem to have the power to withdraw some distance from the material-body. These ethereal particles are employed somehow in "the forces" of seance manifestations. We are told that, while we enter spirit each time we sleep, that entrance is much like the materializations of spirits who appear materialized in a seance-room. We have used some of our ethereal particles to materialize on the other side—for a brief space of time usually—and for the purpose of gaining strength. Upon death, no matter how sudden it may be, these ethereal particles that are around us, within us and near us, and which are ours, form instantly into a counterpart of the material-body. The connections between the material-body and the spirit are severed and death has occurred. The person then lives in spirit.

We shall discuss this further at some future time.

Very sincerely yours,

Lloyd Kenyon Jones

Questions and Answers

The Wm. T. Stead Memorial Center Home Study Course

There are so many questions answered, we shall not reduce the necessary space by any preliminary discussion. Read these questions and answers carefully. We think that they are exceptionally interesting. I noticed that there was a typographical error in the November Lesson. At the head of the 16-page section, "Parts I and II" appeared; it should have read, "Parts II and III."

Question: Will you explain Ecclesiastes 4:16?

Answer: Let us explain, rather, more of the fourth and the three preceding chapters: The first two chapters constitute a beautiful sermon on the subject of the vanity of man, the truth that, as a man gathers much of this world's goods and little of spirit, that man must be sorely vexed. It is "vanity and vexation of spirit." Now read the first part of the third chapter. The first verse states: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Various illustrations are given: "A time to weep and a time to laugh," etc. Here is a wonderful sermon on God's Law, proving that all things are in God's Law, and in their order they come to pass. Chapter 3, the 15th verse states: "That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past." In modern language: To God, there is no time only now; the future to God is as clear as the present and the past. God's Law, therefore, rules all things, including man's destiny, leaving unto man the choice of the path he may select in reaching his destiny. The path is man's, but the destiny is God's. And the 20th verse, speaking of the similarity between man and beast: "All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again." Materialistic? Read the next verse: "Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?" The spirit of the beast belongs to the earth-plane, but man's kingdom is in heaven; namely, the higher spheres. Is this not Biblical verification of that which you have had in "God's World" and the Lessons? We proceed now to the verse in question, the 16th verse of the 4th chapter: "There is no end of all the people, even of all that have been before them: they also that come after shall not rejoice in him. Surely, this also is vanity and vexation of spirit." There is no end of all the people, even of all that have been before them. They will return, many of them; they will come back to the flesh, but will they rejoice in the second child who stands in the place of the king? No. They will find the world vanity and vexation of spirit; they will find, even as time passes, even as generations go by, that when they are again in the flesh, the things of the world are fleeting, and only the things of spirit are enduring and satisfying, for there can be no vexation of spirit in spirit, because there is no vanity in spirit; there is no sham, no aiming for gains not worth the owning.

Question: Why was King Saul rebuked for calling on the spirit of Samuel?

Answer: Saul was not rebuked. Let us read the story of the Witch of Endor, and it straightened out. This quotation from the Bible is the chief weapon that opponents of Spiritualism have against this belief. Turn to 1 Samuel 28, beginning with the third verse: "Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land. And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem: and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa. And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled. And when Saul enquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets. Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor. And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee. And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that hath familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die? And Saul sware to her by the Lord, saying, As the Lord liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing. Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel. And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul. And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou. And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth. And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself. And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets nor by dreams: therefore, I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do. Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the Lord is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy? And the Lord hath done to

him, as he spake by me: for the Lord hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbor, even to David. Because thou obeyest not the voice of the Lord, nor execute his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the Lord done this thing unto thee this day. Moreover, the Lord will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and tomorrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: the Lord also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines. Then Saul fell straightway all along on the earth, and was sore afraid, because of the words of Samuel: and there was no strength in him; for he had eaten no bread all the day, nor all the night. And the woman came unto Saul and saw that he was sore troubled, and said unto him, Behold, thy handmaiden hath obeyed thy voice, and I have put my life in thy hand, and have harkened unto thy words which thou spakest unto me. Now therefore, I pray thee, harken thou also unto the voice of thine handmaiden, and let me set a morsel of bread before thee; and eat, then thou mayest have strength, when thou goest on thy way. But he refused and said, I will not eat. But his servants, together with the woman, compelled him; and he harkened unto their voice. So he arose from the earth and set upon the bed. And the woman had a fat calf in the house; and she hasted, and killed it, and took flour, and kneaded it, and did bake unleavened bread thereof. And she brought it unto Saul and before his servants; and they did eat. Then they arose up and went away that night." In the thirty-first chapter, the death of Saul and his sons is described.

Samuel was dead, but Samuel could be called up. And Samuel told Saul that soon Saul and his sons would be with Samuel. If death ended all, how could Samuel appear, and why does the Bible say conclusively it was Samuel and not an impostor? The critics of Spiritualism declare that this was an evil spirit, but does it seem reasonable that an evil spirit would tell Saul that he had disobeyed the Lord and must suffer? Would not an evil one rejoice in the fact that Saul has disobeyed the words of the Lord delivered to him through the prophets and dreams—visions, memories of astral visits? Saul knew, when he needed advice, that he must find a medium. She did not recognize Saul until the forces of the seance were operating, and then her guides said, "This is Saul, the king who has driven the mediums out of the land." It was too late then. The medium was frightened, but did that deter the spirit-world from telling Saul what was about to happen? Here was the king who had persecuted the mediums wickedly, but when "the witch of Endor" saw that Saul was weak from lack of food and fearful over the situation of the Philistines and the words that Samuel had spoken, she made him wait until she prepared a meal for him. There is no word that Saul paid her for the message or the food. But persecuted, her heart still went out to a mortal in trouble. The Bible neither states nor intimates that this was not Samuel. He, and other spirits, ascended out of the earth—in other words, as mediums say today, "built up," meaning that the medium saw these spirits building up in the vibrations of the material, which process starts usually from the floor. "Because thou obeyest not the voice of the Lord," Samuel warned. And this voice of the Lord came in those days as it comes today—not from a person called God, but from God's Messengers of the spirit-world. God, the great Creative Force, never spoke in words to any person, here or in spirit. For God is in all things, and all things are but God's Creative Ideas. But the spirit-world, being deprived of the mediums

through whom those in spirit had communicated with those in the flesh, no longer sent Saul visions or information. And Saul knew that if he wished such communication, he must find a medium. His servants had no difficulty in directing him, because they were of a better mold than the king. They were willing to shield the mediums against Saul's persecution.

This is the prize devil story of the Bible—in which the spirit of Samuel, admitted by the writers to be Samuel, told Saul that he could not disobey the commands of God, as delivered by the spirit-world, and survive. This is the story over which many ministers of the gospel go into spasms, but if they would pause and read precisely what is stated, how could they find the slightest particle of evidence that mediumship is evil, that death ends all, or that the spirit of Samuel was the devil in disguise? Satan, were there one, would not condemn Saul for disobeying the Lord. He would not hold out the dismal picture that "tomorrow, you and your sons will be with me in spirit." Yet, upon this straight, unmistakable narrative, the opponents of Spiritualism find the boldness to say, "Look at the witch of Endor. What a devil she was. Better keep away from mediums and spiritualism!" And we are told that this is civilization!

Question: Where can I obtain the books *Intra Muros* and *Patience Worth*? Is "Life Everlasting," by Marie Corelli, a statement of facts?

Answer: *Intra Muros* is published by David Cook, Elgin, Ill. *Patience Worth* should be obtained at Brentano's, Fifth Ave., New York. We do not know the price. Marie Corelli is a novelist more than a Spiritualist. She writes imaginative books, not based particularly on spiritual knowledge.

Question: If the soul of a still-born is transferred quickly to another body, what becomes of the spirit that helped form that other body?

Answer: If that other spirit needed but a touch of the earth again, to grow up in spirit a babe, it would not need that body. Usually, if a still-born must be reincarnated, a connection is formed, not with a growing infant body, but with the seed, so that a new body is formed and begins to grow in its mother's uterus.

Question: If we make certain mistakes here, does that mean we shall never make the same mistakes if we are reincarnated?

Answer: You would be less likely to make the same mistakes. That depends upon what you learned through your mistakes, either while you are in the flesh, or after you have returned to spirit and can contemplate the purpose of your earth-life.

Question: Are people inherently honest or dishonest?

Answer: They are inherently honest. Few persons, put on their honor, and given an understanding of what that duty means, will be untrue to their trust. Look for the good in mortals and you will find it. The good responds to an honest search for it.

Question: I am a man sixty-one years old, and knew nothing about Spiritualism until I saw your ad. in *The New York World*. Do you think I have done well?

Answer: Exceptionally well. You were ready for this truth. That is why your guides directed your attention to that announcement. We have several remarkable instances of this kind of guidance. One

man was walking home one evening—a windy, disagreeable Winter evening, and a sheet of newspaper blew across his feet. For three blocks he tried to kick it out of the way, but there it clung, blowing back again and again. He picked it up and read our announcement, the thing, he said, he had hoped to find for years. Call it coincidence, but the forces of spirit use everything in this world, even the vagrant breeze.

Question: I am getting results now, feeling a cold influence passing through my body when I sit, and hearing sounds as though broom-handles were knocked together.

Answer: You are progressing. That wooden sound, which often is referred to as the breaking of a dry pine stick, is the sound of the spirit-rappings. The cold feeling, sometimes wavelike in its action, is also typical of psychic unfoldment.

Question: Why is it my questions are not answered—at least, many of them?

Answer: First, we have on hand bundles of letters containing questions, and many have not been taken up as yet. They will be later. Second, many questions are similar, and we aim to answer each one but once, unless some new shade of meaning is presented in a like question. Third, we reword many questions so as to condense them.

Question: If happiness can be attained here as well as hereafter, how is that possible when one's dearest one has gone?

Answer: Mortals place too much reliance on the physical presence, sight and touch. When they have learned that there is no separation, that they are being guided beautifully, and have their loved ones closer than ever, they will begin to understand happiness.

Question: How may one develop psychic powers alone?

Answer: Sitting for development regularly may bring as good results alone as with others. Automatic writings open a way for communication by oneself.

Question: While I am in good health, my sleep does not rest me as it should. Could it be that I am being drawn upon?

Answer: Your guides would not draw upon you so persistently. Sleep may be sound, but one's fatigue poisons may not be carried away properly, and then one would not feel rested upon waking.

Question: What is the true understanding of Sir Oliver Lodge's new book, "Christopher"?

Answer: We have not gone into it.

Question: Will appreciate titles of good books that have been published along spiritual lines.

Answer: The books of Andrew Jackson Davis are very interesting, especially his "Harmonial Philosophy."

Question: Do spirits come back to earth to live for considerable periods in a semblance of their former earth-bodies?

Answer: One may see those in spirit through visions. Sometimes they materialize, but do not remain materialized over a very long period. Strange as the statement may seem, there was a family in Central America visited regularly—nearly every day

—by the fully materialized spirit of a young woman. The records state that she helped do the housework at times. She came not as a vision, but as a materialized form.

Question: What do the Teachers say about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's articles on the new religion?

Answer: Sir Arthur is an earnest student, and his experiences date back many years. He sees the great change coming and is doing a great deal to help the cause of Spiritualism.

Question: What is destiny?

Answer: To God, a million years hence is the same as today. In sending His children into life, He maps their courses—not all their bypaths, but the objectives of their progress, and this destiny is imprinted in their souls. Therefore, we all move true to our destinies—selecting the routes that our experience dictates.

Question: You say that everything has its spirit-form.

Answer: Everything has its spirit counterpart, or pattern. That is, before an artist paints a picture, he conceives that picture, and his concept is as real as the picture itself. Before a machine is invented, there is a concept of it—not necessarily a machine like it made of ethereal materials, but an entity or pattern that makes that machine possible.

Question: How does Spiritualism account for the existence of evil?

Answer: As ignorance. Some ignorance does not produce bad results, and other ignorance does. The person who does wrong would not commit that act if he knew the consequences. As he learns, he removes himself from that error.

Question: If the Kaiser played the role of the world's most hated man, why was it necessary to murder so many persons, to make so many suffer?

Answer: The great war was foreseen and predicted in Revelation, and certainly was seen long before. The world has been passing through a long era of intense commercialism—money-lust, and all else material. The world, like persons, purges itself, and many came back to die in the war, and through that manner of passing to earn greater progress in spirit. Once in spirit, seeing those who have passed through death, you will have a much different idea of death and its various forms. You will see that death means coming back home, not going to some strange place.

Question: A lady said, "I have so many good things in this life, I do not feel that I need any more." How is this consistent with the suffering of so many others?

Answer: She may have earned those good things. If a mortal needs suffering and hardship in order to learn a lesson, then whatever schooling is required will be secured. This is not all done for punishment. Sometimes spirits who have not known suffering, feel that their development demands suffering, and come to the earth-world for that particular experience. Then, again in spirit, they can help others in the earth-world much better.

Question: If we accept the teaching that we merit our suffering, would this not destroy ambition?

Answer: No. It is a property of the soul to strive, to search, and this urging keeps people going

on and on, trying to do their best. To know that they have tried, becomes a necessary part of their development.

Question: If spirit doctors can heal all disease, why the necessity of physicians in this world?

Answer: Physicians in spirit can help only as mortals supply the conditions. Sometimes the best conditions can be furnished by earth-physicians, and medicine serves its purpose. If the summons to come home has been issued, no physician in any sphere can stay the dissolution known as death.

Question: Can a medium tell by a person's aura what that person has developed?

Answer: The medium's guides can, and the medium hears her guides, and repeats what they say to her, or is inspired by them.

Question: Some years ago, several pairs of my shoes were taken from a closet-shelf. My sister's shoes were not touched. Do you think they were dematerialized and taken to less fortunate girls?

Answer: It is possible, but not likely. They were taken by some person who knew about them and knew their size.

Question: Where was the rich man who beheld Lazarus in the bosom of Abraham?

Answer: The scripture of St. Luke says he was in hell. He was in a lower sphere, suffering the torments of a sharp memory, and seeing how he misused his trust.

Question: Why did the serpent deceive Eve in Eden?

Answer: This allegory told of the coming of materialism to the world. Man was created in purity, and in his early sojourn upon earth, was aware of spirit existence, and saw and talked with those in spirit. And these early dwellers were told to beware of falling into the meshes of the things material, to not think too much about earth-possession and power. But they "ate of the fruit." They became enmeshed in the material things. If you will remember that language of the days when Genesis was written, was a picturesque language, you will find in the story of Adam and Eve not the literal story of the first man and the first woman, but of the fall of mortals from a state of spiritual understanding to a condition of earthly desires—and the serpent you will recognize as the avarice, selfishness and jealousy that have wrought such havoc on earth.

Question: How am I to know if I have spiritual development?

Answer: In your fairness and consideration in dealing with others. Spiritual development means that you feel the real brotherhood of man, and goodness of God. It may not mean psychic development, but it means an abiding faith in the ways of God, without unjust criticism for your fellows.

Question: If it is true that books and plays first are written in spirit, why are so many authors and playwrights drunkards?

Answer: Talented persons, meaning those prepared for a special work in spirit, sometimes are so taken up with what they believe to be their own ability, they feed their lower appetites—a fact they will regret keenly when they return to spirit.

Question: Why should a great artist be railroaded to an asylum for years, while worthless, lazy people are free?

Answer: Sometimes the importance of a work is brought out only through persecution. Mr. Stead says that his incarceration in a prison in England helped him more than all his writings. The worthless have so little importance, they are left to shift—and their going and coming mean little to the world, until they can come back regenerated.

Question: Some Bible students say that it is sinful to communicate with spirits. How does this compare with the reality?

Answer: The Bible says no such thing. Certain persons, in Bible history, said so. Read the story of Saul and the Witch of Endor, and let these so-called students answer it. Let them read the many statements of Christ, who was a wonderful medium. They do not read their Bibles properly.

Question: When we sit for development, just one person shakes. Is this a sign of development?

Answer: Some persons, feeling the forces, combat them—perhaps unintentionally. Some mediums have this habit of shivering, and others do not have it.

Question: If Christ did not ascend into heaven with his earthly body, where was that body on Easter morning?

Answer: Christ had a spirit-body. What was the need of His taking into the spirit-spheres something He could not use? The material of this world belongs to this world, and if the spirit-world saw fit to take His earth-body where the curious and those who persecuted Him could not find it, that was a lesson to them that higher forces were working than they had recognized.

Question: What is meant by the statement that God will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain?

Answer: In spirit, those who blasphemed will see that they were untrue to their Source—to their Creator, and will feel sad to think that they knew so little. Remorse will do a great deal of all the punishing mortals will require.

Question: Do they have to have shelter from snow and rain in spirit?

Answer: No. That is, not on the third sphere. Those in the lower spheres sense many of the conditions common to mortals, but not in the same way—more as a condition than a fact. Have you read, "The World Next-door"?

Question: What is meant by the Biblical statement that Christ descended into hell, and the third day He arose and ascended into heaven?

Answer: If hell meant what many persons believe, this would seem a terrible punishment, would it not? Christ visited the lower spirit-spheres, those with sorrow and regret, and carried His message to them, and then passed on to the higher spheres.

Question: Is it harmful to pay attention to dreams?

Answer: No, only be sure to get their true meaning. "Dreams," that is being given with subscriptions to the new magazine, "Communication," will teach you a great deal about dreams and their meaning.

Question: What is the meaning of chain-prayers, that are supposed to be copied and sent to others?

Answer: Some of them originated among derelicts, whose object was the prey upon people's religious impulses, and make begging an easier occupation. Others have been started by persons with truly religious desires.

Question: When a person is busy in a shop each Friday evening, how can healing help be brought to him?

Answer: If his friends call upon the forces and he invites them, that help will come. Also, it will come at other times.

Question: If a person who is sick, eats too much, what good will prayers do?

Answer: Not a great deal. If that person will not observe common sense, he has barred the channel for help to reach him. We must not expect to do things harmful to us and then get help anyway. Each person, in spirit or on earth, must do his part.

Question: Should we pray to God or ask our spirit-guides for help?

Answer: Pray to God. Address your guides, in thought, just as though you were talking to some close friends.

Question: I have suffered with two ailments since I was fourteen. Will the physicians in spirit help me?

Answer: We shall ask the physicians to help and know that the Class-members will do their part in asking for you.

Question: Is the position of detective or spotter an honorable occupation?

Answer: If it is used honorably, and not to "frame." All work has its honest phases. Many bartenders have saved men from drunkenness.

Question: Last week I dreamed about my mother who has been in spirit for seventeen years. Could it be possible she would like to communicate with me or guide me?

Answer: She is guiding you and is very close to you. She would like to communicate, of course, but she will guide you even though that communication should not come.

Question: In a dream that seemed a vision, I saw some beautiful horses on a cloud. What did it mean?

Answer: The horses signified friendship—and the cloud that your friends would try to lift you up—help you. They may be friends in spirit or in the flesh.

Question: Why do I receive only falsehoods through table-tipping?

Answer: You have been impatient in this development—have become over-anxious and interfered with the forces. Sit for several weeks—once or twice a week, with the same friends—not for messages, but to help the forces handle the table. Let the messages come later.

Question: I have been told that I am clairvoyant and clair-audient. How can I develop these gifts?

Answer: Properly, you should have been told that you were psychic. Study the instructions in, "Development of Mediumship," and permit yourself to follow those lines that prove to be the right ones for you. Do not decide upon developing some special kind of mediumship. Be glad to develop whatever kind God sends to you.

Question: How can I interpret raps given at different points around me?

Answer: They are reminders that your loved ones are near you. Only when raps come through a code, with a repetition of the letters of the alphabet, do they deliver messages.

Question: Can you suggest a system of "seeking first the kingdom of heaven"?

Answer: By living the best you know how—by striving to do the right thing, for yourself and toward others.

Question: Is faith a belief or knowledge?

Answer: Faith should precede knowledge. One who has faith should be inspired to learn. And the faith increases as the knowledge becomes broader.

Question: Should students, beginning to get phenomena, mention the fact to others?

Answer: Only if the others are interested, but not to try to induce some one to believe. People must grow into knowledge—must seek it before it is theirs.

Question: What does it mean to be illuminated?

Answer: This illumination may be of two varieties. First, the body possesses an aura, or light-giving properties. Sometimes this is seen by others. Second, there is the spirit-aura, or light. This may also be seen by others, and is caused by a closer harmony with the spirit-world. The Bible called it a halo. This use of aura differs from "the record" referred to in "God's World."

Question: I have been sitting with a trumpet, and when I sit with my child's music teacher, I get results.

Answer: Perhaps she is more mediumistic. However, do not be impatient. Follow the instructions you mentioned in your letter.

Question: If Christ is not the mediator for our sins, what is meant by the words of St. Paul in 1st Thess. 5:9, 10: "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by or through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him"? The same New Testament tells us that we are joint-heirs with Christ, as much Children of God as He. What St. Paul meant and said was that Christ brought the Teachings, and through His Teachings we would obtain development. When mortals get into the habit of passing all their shortcomings to Christ, they find no particular limit for their wrong-doings. If they misinterpret the Scriptures to mean that they can do anything they please, and Christ will relieve them of their debts, they are not paying due respect to Christ, who tried to show them, by act and word, what human obligations mean.

Question: If Christ was only a great Teacher and Medium, why do we have the Trinity—the Father, Son and Holy Ghost?

Answer: But Christ Himself said that we are all as much children of God as He. His apostles said it. Say, "God, Soul and Spirit," and see if you have a different Trinity. Take all that Christ said on any one subject, and then if those statements are contradictory, who is to blame—Christ or the people who read them? No one statement proves the Scriptures. If you select one passage from the Bible and say, "This is what the Bible says," how about the other statements in that same Bible that say quite the opposite?

Question: What does this mean? "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the father except by me."

Answer: Except through the truth Christ taught. But coming unto the Father does not mean to an individual—a God who looks like a man. If God is in all things, if nothing can exist except through and of God, then God is here as much as anywhere. But knowledge of what God means comes through development, through earnest searching, and that is what Christ was telling the world in many different ways. Christ never told humanity to cease all effort and simply believe. He told mankind to make the effort, to know that the truths He taught were not idle opinion, but living fact.

Question: St. Luke 16:26 says, "And besides all this, between us and you, there is a great gulf fixed, and they which would pass from hence to you, may not be able, and that none may cross over from thence to us." With such a statement as that from Christ, how is it possible now to have the "crossing over" that you seem to have in your Wm. T. Stead Seance-room? What has happened since those days that makes it possible now?

Answer: Whatever Law of God operates now, operated in the days of Christ, which, as time is reckoned, is but yesterday. True, mortality is a great gulf—separating mortals in memory from the glories of spirit, but not for eternity. It is difficult for spirits to come to mortals who do not understand, and difficult for mortals to gain a clear insight into spirit. To select a few verses from the Bible and say, "Behold, this is the Scripture," is the same as pointing to a star and saying, "Behold, this is the universe—all that God created." Now, let us quote from the Bible at some length, taking the 8th chapter of Romans—the same New Testament, the same Bible from which these other quotations were taken: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Note, "The law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus." Keep that in mind, please. We proceed: "For what the law could not do, in that it is weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh can not please God." In plain language, those who seek the carnal things can not please God. We proceed further: "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell

in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness." What does this mean by saying that "if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin"? That does not appear as though mortals were grasping much of Christ's teachings while they were in the flesh, does it? "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by the spirit that dwelleth in you." If this Spirit, which comes of God, does not dwell in you, your mortal-bodies can not have life. In other words, it is the Spirit in your bodies that gives you life—not the mortal-body itself. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Does this appear as though God had but one son—one child? "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." Is that much different from what the Teachers say today? "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. . . . For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why does he yet hope for? But if we hope for that which we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. . . . For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son that he might be the first born among many brethren. . . . What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" And thus, we find all through the Scriptures, much about the Spirit World, and the Law of God, and the very things that we are studying today. There is nothing in the Bible, when taken in conjunction with all else pertaining to the same subject, that is one whit different from the Teachings of today. Those who feel that there is an effort to belittle Christ in these Teachings, have the wrong conception. How can we belittle the identical Truth that exists today? The One Deity which is in all things, can not be a person. But those Spirits more highly developed, are closer to God, because they understand the Truths of God—and Christ, the Teacher, the Saviour of those who will seek progression through His Teachings, said what is being said continuously from the spirit-world—only the message today is coming in the language of today, and Christ's Teachings are handed down through translations, over a period of many centuries—and were not written until some years after His passing, and were changed by the versions that the writers understood.

Question: If we are saved by grace, as the Bible states, how does this harmonize with the Law of Compensation?

Answer: Learning the Truth is by grace—by what else? Remove this Law of Compensation and what other natural law would remain, when all expressions of law are but the one great law—the Law of God?

Question: Do Paul and Peter, who were so zealous in the Truth in their day, ever come to your seances as Teachers?

Answer: Many come whose identity is never revealed. But rest assured that whether they actu-

ally come or not, their work is for the Children of God. Those in the higher spheres need not come in person. They direct. They give orders to the others, and they impress the world. Their interest has not ceased, nor will it.

Question: I have heard raps at night, and a sound as though some one were writing with a lead-pencil on a desk near the window.

Answer: One evening in our seance-room, the sound of many pencils, writing, was heard plainly by all present, and we were told that this writing was done by children, who were students and who had come to our seance to make notes. The sound you heard likely was writing done by some one in spirit.

Question: I dreamed one night that my sister kissed me good-bye and said she was going to spirit. I was ill at the time.

Answer: Mixed with some vision, were the troubled dreams of your illness, and that caused the confusion. Your memory of the vision was imperfect.

Question: I find great fascination in watching the sky, and the clouds. Why is this?

Answer: Spirit memories cling to mortal often. The exact reason for any form of fascination is not clear, but it is an old memory, carried over imperfectly.

Question: Often I feel very sorry for things I have done, and wish I could have the opportunity to live them over.

Answer: This is development. All progress begins with a sincere desire and all compensation for wrong deeds, with remorse for them.

Question: Does it hurt those in spirit when we think and talk about them?

Answer: No. But think and talk about them as though they were with you, as real friends, and not in a mournful manner.

Question: Do those in spirit long to be back on earth with their loved ones?

Answer: They say that they are nearer their dear ones than they ever could be in the flesh. Some, just after they have passed over, have this longing, but they soon see things properly. Those who have led reprehensible and low lives, often long for years for the things of the flesh.

Question: A medium told me that I am a healer. Is that true?

Answer: If you bring a healing influence to the sick, then it is true, but like any other gift would have to be developed.

Question: A friend of mine who is a very good medium, has terrible spells of temper and refuses to sit at times.

Answer: Being drawn upon almost all the while, and suffering many rebuffs, mediums may give way to their tempers. The wonder is not that they show temper, but that they do not show more.

Question: When I am alone, I become so frightened; why is this?

Answer: It is nervousness, and perhaps sensitiveness. You feel your loved ones in spirit near

you. Try to feel differently; it makes it harder for them to help you.

Question: At our seance, when we get no results, I ask my guides to move the table, and they invariably do so. What kind of mediumship is this?

Answer: Physical manifestations often come when there are no other manifestations. There are forms of mediumship that make this possible, but the kinds of mediumship are so numerous, it would be impossible to even suggest all of them.

Question: Do those in spirit hear what we say, or only when we are near a medium?

Answer: Your loved ones hear all you say, see all you do. The presence of a medium is not necessary for this.

Question: If it is always daylight in spirit, do they see the stars, planets, sunrise and sunset?

Answer: "The World Next-Door" goes into these points.

Question: Is crystal-gazing a form of mediumship?

Answer: It is a form of clairvoyance. One type of clairvoyance sees the visions without any assistance, sometimes with the eyes open and sometimes with them closed. Crystal-gazing is much like providing a screen, on which these clairvoyant visions are focused. The pictures appear to the medium in the crystal usually; sometimes on the surface or in front of the crystal.

Question: Do the Teachers approve of the writings and teachings of Swedenborg?

Answer: Yes, because he was teaching truth as he understood it. Swedenborg comes often into the Classes as a Teacher.

Question: I dream often of babies and young children. I have two children in spirit. Do you think this dream may be of some past incarnation?

Answer: It may be that or—more likely—visions brought by your own children, even, though they may now be grown up.

Question: The day after my father passed out, I dreamed that I saw him, and in a beautiful home—and though he had suffered from a disease of the eye, I could see his perfect eye under a mist. Was I with him in spirit?

Answer: Yes. You brought back a memory of what you saw. The eye was shown particularly to help you know that he was once more perfect in body.

Question: I dreamed of meeting a friend of ours in a building filled with beautiful flowers, and a wonderful band was playing. Was it not likely that this was an astral journey to this friend in spirit?

Answer: It was. Your memory of it, described in your longer question, bears out the fact that you brought back into your waking state a very clear picture.

Question: Why have my questions not been answered?

Answer: During the Summer, we received a flood of questions, and they are being answered as rapidly as we can take care of them.

Question: How long after the spirit leaves the body before it can get in touch intelligently with those left behind?

Answer: We have many records where communication was established within a few hours. Others who pass through the change are unable to communicate for several days or even for weeks.

Question. Was Christ sacrificed voluntarily?

Answer: It was part of Christ's destiny to die on the cross. The manner of His death helped to impress His teachings upon humanity.

Question: Can a person who is trying to pull down others, instead of upbuilding and helping, progress spiritually?

Answer: The very act of trying to harm others means that through the law of compensation such thoughts and deeds react upon the offender and this retards spiritual progress.

Question: Is inspiration a gift that all can have if they are willing to work for humanity?

Answer: Every person who works earnestly for anything that is good and honest will be inspired.

Question: As the real self reaches out to spirit for guidance, that guidance responds at once, does it not?

Answer: It does—but it may not be apparent immediately.

Question: How many planes or conditions are there for progression on the spirit side of life?

Answer: In conjunction with the earth-world, there are seven spheres. But in each sphere there are many planes of development, just as there are many planes here. The term "earth-plane" really should be "earth-sphere." Beyond these seven spirit-spheres, unquestionably there are many others.

Question: Why is it that some persons both see and hear spirits and yet are not willing to have it known publicly, while others crave for the same gifts and don't seem to be blessed with them?

Answer: It is a human habit to not respect the treasures that are ours. Fear of ridicule has caused many men to deny the truth. Those who strive to possess this gift at least are progressing, even though their hopes seem unattained.

Question: If Father, Son and Holy Spirit or Ghost are one and the same, why do most people in all churches speak of them as three?

Answer: These divisions have become a sort of ritual, and it is a human habit to learn by rote.

Question: Why do men resist Christ's teachings?

Answer: Only through ignorance.

Question: Are we as spirits placed in mortal bodies for any specific time?

Answer: This is a matter that seems to be open to debate. Your highest guides undoubtedly know the time and manner of your passing, but the earth tenure seems to be based on acquiring a certain necessary experience, or doing a certain essential work, rather than upon a time-measurement.

Question: What is meant when we say, "Jesus, a Spiritual King?"

Answer: This is a figure of speech to signify Christ has progressed to a high state of being that may be likened to the position of a King. Also, He often is called the Great Physician.

Question: What is the secret power of sympathy?

Answer: It is the law of attraction. And where it extends to strangers, it is a recognition that all mortals are children of God.

Question: Will God always be as great a mystery as He now is to the people of earth?

Answer: As the earth people learn more about God's Law and their responsibilities, they will gain in their comprehension as to just what God means.

Question: Is God—being a Perfect Purpose—still progressing the same as the children of earth?

Answer: God, as the great Creative Purpose, needs no progression because He is perfect. And yet, because each one of us is but a reflection of God, it may be said that God is living these endless varieties of experience of all of His Creatures.

Question: Have all spirits the power to materialize?

Answer: They all have the power, but many of them require instructions. There are many who are afraid to materialize, regarding that change just as a mortal would regard death. Many fear that they will not be able to escape the material-body with which they are clothed during materialization.

Question: Were Christ, Buddha, Confucius, Socrates, and other teachers of old, reincarnated spirits?

Answer: Yes, they were spirits old in earth-experience. A young spirit never would have possessed such strength of character.

Question: Is it possible for an animal spirit (a bear for instance) to control an undeveloped medium? If it was not a bear, why should some persons present see the bear very clearly? Every time the medium growled like a ferocious bear, she could be seen to move and act as a bear would be expected to act.

Answer: There is no reason to believe that the spirit of an animal could control a medium. But an undeveloped medium might feel the influence of that animal spirit and be affected by it.

Question: I have been told that an Indian guide of mine has been chained to prevent his helping me. Is such a thing possible?

Answer: It is impossible. No such restraint is ever necessary in spirit.

Question: I have been told that I have been building a wall around myself—that it is difficult for my friends in spirit to reach me.

Answer: This would imply that you were living away from your guides. But as you strive earnestly to attract them, and follow out their instructions and guidance, then such a barrier would be removed.

Question: In "God's World" we read that sickness is the result of infraction of natural law. What about contagious diseases? A young man, while feeling very well, was stricken with pneumonia. He died. What law had he broken?

Answer: If we could live in perfect harmony with natural law, we would not be subject to epi-

demics. Most mortals break physical laws and know so little about spiritual law, they become victims of disease and yet are perfectly moral and splendid people.

Question: Why is it that some Spiritualistic churches admit Bible readings in their services, while others do not?

Answer: Some Spiritualists feel that orthodox churches have persecuted them and put the blame on the Bible. A careful study of the Bible will convince any Spiritualist that there is nothing contradictory between Bible teachings and Spiritualism.

Question: We read in "God's World": "No word comes from Spiritland that could cause us to think of God as a person. We were created in His image and in His likeness." If we are in His likeness, does that not imply that He has individuality, judgment, will and all that would constitute a personality?

Answer: We are created in "God's image of man." Our mental attributes are reflections of God's knowledge, and these reflections are localized. The soul is something without dimensions, and therefore all souls partake of the likeness, image or reflection of God. Remember that everything that lives, whether spirit, mortal, animal, vegetable or anything else, lives only because of God, and that each has the image and likeness of God in its life-principles. Shape and dimensions are created things.

Question: Kindly give a few simple rules about the best way to obtain spiritual development.

Answer: At all times be true to yourself. Think nothing and do nothing that reflects or reacts upon yourself, and you will be in harmony with God's law.

Question: How would you explain the fact that some Spiritualists do not believe in reincarnation?

Answer: In many seances different spirits will manifest who have no memory of reincarnation, who may have lived through only one incarnation, and they will make statements only in accordance with what they are sure they have lived. Many spirits resent the idea of reincarnation, feeling that they have suffered enough on earth. Those spirits who have come back into their cosmic memory see that reincarnation is a fact, because they have experienced it.

Question: In your judgment can a Christian, a member of some orthodox church of a liberal kind, be a Spiritualist at the same time?

Answer: Yes. There are many persons who like their type of church organization, and who believe in spirit return, communication and guidance. This is true not only of Protestants, but of Catholics. One Catholic lady, who sent for the lessons for examination, returned them saying that she found no difference between Spiritualism and Catholicism. In other words, she saw and understood the spirituality of her own church; and when a person does that, there is nothing contradictory in Spiritualism.

Question: Can the physicians in spirit help me if I sit alone on Friday evenings?

Answer: They can help you just as well as if you were sitting in company with others.

Question: Will my child in spirit, and my Heavenly Father, forgive me for taking my little child's life through an accident due to carelessness on my part?

Answer: You may be sure that you are forgiven. Remember that many things we call accidents are the Will of God, and that when the summons comes to return home, a means of returning must be found.

Question: I smothered my baby in her sleep. Do you suppose I will be punished hereafter?

Answer: You did so with the best intentions, desiring to protect her. There will be no punishment, for the intention was for the best and there was no forethought of harmful results.

Question: If a person claiming to be a true Christian neglects many opportunities to show his Christianity by his deeds, is he a true Christian?

Answer: Many persons neglect to do what they see afterwards was their duty—but their very regret proves that they are trying to live good lives.

Question: My daughter has leakage of the heart. Is this curable?

Answer: Some persons have lived in the flesh a great many years with this trouble. If your daughter's summons does not come, this heart trouble will not take her away.

Question: How is it that some persons take more interest in other person's affairs than in their own?

Answer: This is a habit of interference. It is a form of egotism.

Question: Is there soil for cultivation in the spirit-world, and do they produce more than fruits?

Answer: Vegetation of many kinds grows in spirit, but it does not require what we call cultivation.

Question: If drunkards, thieves and murderers pay their debts before they advance, how do they earn their development?

Answer: Some of them earn it through study and work and helping to guide others, and some through reincarnation.

Question: If the dog always remains a dog, is there nothing to reward animals for patient service here?

Answer: They are rewarded according to their kind. In other words, the desires of an animal are not the same as the desires of a man—and the kind of progression that would satisfy the soul of a person might make no impression upon the soul of an animal. They are rewarded and cared for in accordance with their natures.

Question: Was not Christ's statement concerning John, that he was the Elias that was to come, a personal confirmation on his part of the doctrine of reincarnation; and fully as important as his statement to Nicodemus?

Answer: Yes. Consult Matt. 11:11-14, inc.; also Matt. 18:12: "But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the son of man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist."

Question: I have read that spirits recently passed over can not see as plainly in our day as at night. Is this true?

Answer: No—this is a misconception. Sometimes spirits coming through a poorly developed medium will make statements of this kind simply because they are dealing with forces they can not handle, and they fail to make the statement as they had planned to make it.

Question: One who has been in spirit long enough to recover complete memory says that just previous to and during the recent war, the struggles between the spiritual forces of light and darkness were far greater than any earthly battle. As I can question neither his sincerity nor intelligence, please explain why this appeared so to him.

Answer: This spirit was stating what he actually witnessed. There are countless numbers in the lower spirit-spheres who have not progressed and who would welcome any war or upsetness in the world, through their ignorance. The battle referred to was not like an earth-battle. It was the forces of the pure and good against the forces of discontent and ignorance. It is true that there are opposites. If there were no good, we would have no standard to permit us to point out evil. We understand through comparisons.

Question: Where there is great loss of strength, sometimes for many days at a time, from no apparent cause, is it likely due to some spiritual cause, particularly in one who is sensitive?

Answer: It is very likely due to being drawn upon to help some sick person, perhaps even a stranger.

Question: Of the many pictures which have been painted of Christ, will the Teachers tell us which one resembles the real Christ?

Answer: Most of the pictures of Christ bear a resemblance, but they do not sufficiently portray the character of His features.

Question: If some planets are inhabited by those who first came into life through our own earth-plane, are these spirits those who have progressed past our seven spirit-spheres?

Answer: Not necessarily. There are spirits whose work no longer is connected directly with this earth-world. In other words, in different parts of the universe there are spheres and planes of development that correspond with the different spheres associated with this world.

Question: What do the Teachers say about the work of Christ in the present time as well as in the past?

Answer: Christ is using His efforts and power to help the earth precisely as much as He did when He was in the flesh.

Question: One who is passionately fond of music and art lacks talent in producing them. Will this talent be given in spirit?

Answer: Undoubtedly that person will possess those gifts in spirit. He brings back a memory of them, but his particular work does not require their

use in the earth-life. In this connection many persons can think of a tune perfectly, but as they attempt to sing it or whistle it or play it, they make mistakes. This shows that the spirit has that knowledge, but that the bodily instrument has not been trained or attuned to the ability really possessed by the spirit.

Question: Are not your claims in accord with what Jesus said would come in the last day: Matt. 24:24-26?

Answer: "For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they would deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not." Let us continue from the 26th verse; it is all part of the same Scriptures, is it not? "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall all the comings of the Son of man be." Did the lightning not "come out of the East and shineth even unto the West?" Is the great war too far in the past to connect this prophecy with what has just occurred? "For whosoever the carcass is, there will be the eagles to gather together." Have not the eagles gathered together—the double eagles, for example? "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken." Reading the picturesque language of those days, "Great trouble shall come upon the earth, everything will be unsettled, there will be no end of disputes, so that people will not know what next to expect." Does the Biblical language mean anything different? And have not false prophets and Christs arisen? Surely, has not the world worshipped its material success? Have not the men of wealth and influence been the lords and masters? "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Have not all the tribes (nations) mourned, and are they not today seeking the Truth that the Teacher of Galilee tried to teach them nearly two thousand years ago? "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of trumpet," and He IS sending His angels with the great sound of a trumpet and through that trumpet comes the same pure truth, talking against the things of the flesh—which surely the devil, were there one, could never think of talking; and teaching about the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man. This is the "great heresy" that too many think has come upon us. These teachings, breathing only the glory of God, have not been connected by those who refuse to learn that the Bible was written in a day of parables, and that to read these passages all literally, is to go back on the language of that day and age—to refute its allegorical nature. "And they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heaven to the other." And mortals, saying that they are Christians, claiming to believe that Christ still lives, can see no possibility of the fulfillment of His prophecies, and His return, except that He come in the flesh, yet the things of the flesh are passing, and the things of spirit are eternal. Claiming to understand this righteousness, why do the children of the world fail to understand that the greatest of all things are of spirit, and that through spirit these prophecies are being fulfilled?

Question: Please explain 2 Peter 2:1-22.

Answer: "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that brought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction." Inasmuch as the Teachings coming to you are based wholly and irrevocably upon the Fatherhood of God, we regret that you should see in Spiritualism this "damnation of the Lord." We think that no further answer is required. When these Teachings ask you to forget or neglect your obligation to God, then there is time to associate them with the evil things.

Question: (Following a long list of Bible quotations): Now, in the face of these Scriptures, how could one dare to communicate with the spirits of the dead?

Answer: Christ did. His disciples did. And, besides, claim not to know God's love until you have learned not to doubt God's law. Tell us how else communication would be possible, except through God's Law? While you are reading the Bible, read all of it. In these Lessons, we have given innumerable quotations from the Bible about communication, not with "the dead," for those are the bodies from which the life has flown, but with our loved ones who have passed to their homes. It is this narrow intolerance that has thrust this world into its pitiful state today; it was this smug satisfaction that the Scriptures endorse one personally and damn his enemies, instead of seeing in all life God and naught else, that has brought this earth-world to its knees. Talk not of favoritism with God until you love God well enough to trust Him and His Immutable Laws.

Question (Condensed): Could Christ have been in error in His Teachings? In some parts of the New Testament it would appear that He disagreed with the Law of Compensation; there seems to be conflict in places.

Answer: No, there was no disagreement, but the language often made it appear so. Christ made His teachings very plain in stating that faith in God, love of God, were necessary, that we must progress according to God's Law. His thoughts about forgiveness, you will find, were these: God does not charge against you without end, your mistakes. He gives you a chance. But, you must earn your way, or experience would be needless. If God sends souls to earth to have experience, that experience must be essential. To wipe it all out, by not asking men to make good their wrong acts and thoughts, would nullify that experience. But the language of the different writers, their style of writing, differed.

Question: My husband, calling on a friend, looked at that friend and saw a different face altogether. Does this show development for transfiguration?

Answer: Yes, in the sense of a vision. Just as there is materialization—transfiguration, which all present may see, so is the same principle employed in clairvoyance. No one but your husband would have seen this change. Some spirit was trying to show himself, but could do so only by building the vision around the features of this other man.

Question: I was told that results I get in table-tippings is animal magnetism. Is that true?

Answer: Ask your friends what animal magnetism is; tell them you would like to have it explained. There is no such thing, and yet people like to use terms that sound high-pitched and scholarly.

Question: In sitting for slate-writing, should we place our hands on the slate and place the pencil on the slate?

Answer: Try fastening two slates together, with a short slate-pencil between them. Place these slates on a small table; if two are sitting, let one sit opposite the other, both with their hands on the slates, and the hands of one touching the hands of the other. Sit in a comfortable position and talk at times about these manifestations, but do not become anxious or try to help mentally.

Question: Sometimes in sitting for table manifestations, I am impressed just how those in spirit look, and also how mortals referred to look. I do not see anything, but have these impressions.

Answer: These impressions are being given to you, and in time they may be followed by "clear-seeing" or psychic sight.

Question: Somewhere in the Bible, it says that heaven and earth shall pass away, but God's word will not pass away. What is the meaning?

Answer: Matthew 24:35: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." In other words, God, the Creator, is greater than that which He created. This earth-world and its associated seven spirit-sphere eventually shall cease to be; their purpose will have been served. They will pass, but God and God's Truth, living without beginning and without end, can never pass away. It is that Truth that must guide us in our never-ending progress.

Question: Lying on a couch, thinking about my old home, I found myself lying on a sandy beach. What was the cause?

Answer: You may have passed into sleep and gone on an astral journey, or you may have taken that journey without passing into sleep.

Question: I was told that I would live on earth to be over eighty. Is that true?

Answer: To the spirit giving you this information, it appeared that way. Usually your higher guides alone would know when and how you would pass; sometimes other guides have this information.

Question: I see beautiful lights coming from the trumpet. Is that due to my guides?

Answer: Yes. It is a light given by them. Also, some clairvoyant sight can actually discern the "forces" that are being used.

Question: Can any person develop any kind of mediumship?

Answer: No more than any person could master any kind of art.

Question: Can a person with mediumistic powers change the kind of mediumship through studying these Lessons?

Answer: Only if the guides of that medium wished to make a change.

Question: How long does it take to learn if one is a trumpet medium?

Answer: Manifestations might come within a few days or a few weeks. Likely it would take months. We know of instances where it has taken years—many years; twenty or more years.

Question: Andrew Jackson Davis said that the spirit is the finer element, and the soul the covering. (This question is condensed.)

Answer: This is just the opposite of the information given by the Teachers, but even though the terms are transposed, the meaning is the same.

Question: I have been unable to find, in my library, where Hindus practised spirit-return. Can you tell me of a book where I can find it?

Answer: The Hindu teachings were all spiritual, but their idea was to progress from this mesh of nature, to get nearer their Source. They shunned the things of the flesh—paid little heed to earth-experience, longed for escape from the flesh. There are more mediums among the Hindus today than you will find in any other part of the world; more mediums of every description.

Question: I enclose some hand-writing. No medium has ever given me an answer as to what it is.

Answer: This writing, which we are returning to you, evidently is automatic, in printed form mostly, and written backwards. Hold it to a mirror and you will make out many words. A little more practice will give you clearer letters. This form of automatic writing is rare.

Question: Mrs. Maurice played in a photoplay production, "Over the Top," which she never saw on the screen in this life, having passed into spirit. Do you think she has seen it from spirit?

Answer: Yes. Florence LaBadie, who played in "The Million Dollar Mystery," and who now is in spirit, often tells Mr. Jones, with whom she was acquainted in the flesh, about new productions, which are not exhibited for weeks after she has told about them.

Question: Do you think it is possible for Helen Keller to see herself in "Deliverance," though she is deaf, dumb and blind?

Answer: Blind persons have been known to develop psychic sight, and often see as clearly as though they were not blind.

Question: Just what is Christian Science?

Answer: A very beautiful religion that has brought hope, strength and happiness to many.

Question: Does a person always know when development starts?

Answer: Meaning psychic development, a person usually has indications when the unfoldment begins. These indications are nearly limitless.

Question: If I went to a medium weekly and followed her advice, would I be successful?

Answer: It is not the advice of the medium that counts. If you get in communication with your guides, they will tell you many things to do, but by living as near to them as you can, they will inspire and direct you without direct communication.

Question: Why do some Spiritualists not believe in the Bible?

Answer: Chiefly because it has been used so much to criticise them, they became resentful, for which we are sorry. We are trying to teach people not to fight other religions, but to see in all the same basic truth. It is a peculiar thing, but true, that the wrath of humanity is aroused easily by trivial things, by

little differences, but that most people meet their big tasks patiently. And so, little differences in religion seem to make mortals peevish, when all the while they are agreed on the fundamentals.

Question: Why can't we form a Spiritualistic Center in New York like the Stead Center?

Answer: If we help you form one, and permit Mrs. Cook to go there occasionally, just how much will you and our other New York friends work with us? We are willing, but these things we can not do all alone.

Question: Could a mother so love a child that she could attract it as a child again if she were reincarnated?

Answer: Yes, but also remember that the spirit who was her child before, might require experience different from its former experience, and could get that better through another earth-parentage.

Question: If there is only one color, white, in spirit, how do we have Indian guides and how can Indians and Negroes manifest as members of those races, once they are in spirit?

Answer: For purposes of identification, they do so manifest. For the same reason, a spirit, long since matured, will meet its mother as a child when she passes out, if she is looking for her babe as it was. Earth-people must use "make-up" to change their appearance. Those in spirit can accomplish still better results by changing their entire appearance or size, a form of control over the spirit-body that is impossible with a material-body.

Question: Do infants in spirit have to be carried around, nursed and fed?

Answer: Yes. They are babies, must grow up. They are not nursed in the sense of earth-nursing, but they are given nourishment. And while we are on this subject, let us remember this: In your earth-body, when you eat food, it goes through as bulk, and from it is extracted the certain nourishing properties it contains. These particles are used for cell-building. In spirit, eating food means the introduction of new energy to the body, and the process is not the same as digestion and assimilation, as there is no waste-and-repair as you know it. The sense of satisfying the hunger is the same, but the food is transmuted into energy—and with no dying cells, there are no fatigue-poisons. Hence, their eating in spirit differs from your eating, and their processes of handling that food in their stomachs is not like yours; there remains no bulky mass to expel.

Question: I know of two instances where departed spirits appeared to earth-persons who do not believe in spirit-return. Why was this done?

Answer: To prove to the doubters they did not know as much as they thought they did; to give them food for thought.

Question: Why should a medium bring beautiful results and at all other times show anger and disregard for others?

Answer: Only because the medium is pulled upon and subjected to so much abuse, that medium gets "cranky," which is quite a human trait. Yet, that medium is faithful to the spirit-world, and until mortals shield mediums, protect them as they do ministers of the gospel, we shall continue to have cranky mediums who may use profanity and do things that religious folk say is unspiritual.

Question: Can a medium become ill from her mediumistic work?

Answer: Yes, partly through long confinement in the seance-room, partly through being drawn upon constantly, and partly through taking on the conditions of those who come for sittings or seances.

Question: How can we better ourselves through reincarnation when we have no memory of former errors?

Answer: For years, even for centuries, a spirit (in spirit) will study and think about his errors and the best way to overcome them, and will return to earth with inclinations to avoid certain things and to progress. The memory of the facts is not with you, but you still have the memory of the lessons you have learned. This you do not lose. Therefore, your earth-experience becomes cumulative. God does not permit you to lose what you have been through or to wander aimlessly through your earth-life.

Question: How can people, claiming to be up in Spiritualism, leave a terrible condition in a room they have entered?

Answer: Claims count for little. A sensitive feels the condition of deceit, or hypocrisy or anger or whatever it may be. Would that we had more effort and less claims.

Question: Will my two sons, who passed out in 1895 and 1898, greet me as grown-ups, when I enter spirit?

Answer: Yes, because you will expect to find them grown up. Your thought and study along this line will help you feel the naturalness of spirit life when you pass out of the flesh.

Question: I feel so deeply the pleading expressions of those angel-like eyes of my children who have gone home. They seem close to me. Is it their great beauty and my love for them I feel?

Answer: You sense their actual presence. They impress you with their beauty and with their love for you.

Question: Before entering a developing class, I could see spiritual things clearly; since entering the class, I have lost this gift and feel very hurt about it.

Answer: One's type of development changes. As your guides bring you something new, even before it is manifest, the old things seem to go. Do not feel disappointed. Be patient.

Question: If, through ignorance, a person should shorten his earth-life, will he be held responsible?

Answer: In this sense: He will see that he was ignorant and will wish to learn and do better.

Question: Is sickness punishment? If medicine does not help us, should we cling to the medicine?

Answer: Sickness is not necessarily punishment. It is due to human ignorance of God's Law. If medicine does not help, it is the wrong medicine. Too much medicine often perpetuates illness.

Question: Am I sinful by wishing I could join my loved ones in spirit? The longer it is since my daughter left me, the more I wish to be with her.

Answer: It is not sinful; it is simply a misunderstanding of the truth that God keeps you here because you still have certain lessons to learn. Each day is one day nearer that meeting. Let this thought sustain you.

Question: I can hear dear ones in spirit calling to me. Do you think they wish me to come?

Answer: Not until your earth-work is done. They are trying to tell you that they are near you, helping you.

Question: Early one morning, I saw my daughter in spirit. She came to my bed, backed a large gray hearse up to the bed, stepped down and opened the doors. What was the meaning?

Answer: Such visions usually signify long life. They may have a different meaning—but at any rate, they would signify that you are here for a purpose necessary to your development; that you must bear in mind that this earth-life is important to you, and must not wish so much to be in spirit. Abide by God's Will.

Question: What difference is there between occult mediumship and spirit mediumship?

Answer: There is just one mediumship—but of many forms. Occult means hidden—mysterious. Some mediums like to make a mystery of their gifts, through not understanding mediumship thoroughly.

Question: Is not control-mediumship detrimental to health?

Answer: It should not be. Most mediums work too hard, however, and any hard work is detrimental to health.

Question: Do the Teachers mention purgatory?

Answer: Yes, the lower spirit-spheres carry out the ideas of purgatory.

Question: What is the magnetic belt the spirits pass through?

Answer: This term refers to a change in vibrations.

Question: What is the difference between necromancy and Spiritualism?

Answer: Necromancy is ignorance, which means that those who try to use psychic gifts have little or no conception of them, and believe that they can "work charms," an impossibility. If they knew more about God's Law, they would not make such claims.

Question: If a person not in his right mind, passes into spirit, would a message from that person in spirit be dependable?

Answer: There are only right minds in spirit, but there may be ignorance, and a message has value according to the experience and advancement of the spirit giving it.

Question: What proof have priests for saying spirits have been taken out of purgatory because of their prayers? Does God demand a money-payment for spirit advancement?

Answer: God demands no money-payment. Prayers for those who feel their need, helps them. The prayers may help, but not the money. The money is a fee expected to help keep up the church organization. No church can continue without material support.

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Because of the forty questions asked in Part II, we shall not continue with the Self-examination Questions. Use your Index in "God's World," and you will find that the forty questions referred to, will help you come into a better understanding of the Teachings.

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